



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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By: Senior Master Sergeant. Rob Carte

### **Rescue Coordination Center suspension on Yakutat search**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska**— The Commander of 11th Air Force, under recommendation by the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, has suspended search efforts for missing pilot Alan Foster.

The AKRCC has researched and resolved all possible leads and exhaustive search efforts in the area have proven unsuccessful.

197 searchers in 57 aircraft flew 84 sorties and accumulated 279.1 flight hours while searching for Mr. Foster.

Few leads and poor weather in the early days of searching hampered efforts, but eventually the entire search area was saturated with aircraft in an attempt to find the missing pilot.

The RCC would like to commend the efforts of all searchers, both official and good Samaritans, who helped in the effort.

"The tremendous support from Alaska Civil Air Patrol was awe inspiring," said SMSgt Robert Carte, a senior controller with the 11th Air Force RCC. "Volunteers from CAP forward-deployed to Cordova, away from their families and jobs, just so they could extend the search area during daylight hours. That type of dedication is often seen in the aviation community, but these Alaskan's really gave it their all."

The effort included assets from United States Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Air National Guard and CAP squadrons from Birchwood, Fairbanks, Eielson, Merrill Field, Kenai, Valdez, and Juneau.

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